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monarchy and renunciation. Ever since the first Morocco crisis of 1905 most of the leading statesmen and soldiers of Europe had regarded a general conflict as extremely probable, though opinions differed as to its date and whether it would start in the east or the west. The Continent was racked by three separate but simultaneous antagonisms. The oldest was the quarrel between France and Germany over Alsace and Lorraine. Second in order of time was the competition of Russia and Austria for hegemony in the Near East. The most recent was the rivalry between England and Germany for the command of the seas. Moreover the network of alliances ensured that a serious quarrel between any two of the Great Powers would develop into a general scrimmage. Diplomatic and military preparations for the struggle were pushed forward everywhere. When the call from St. Petersburg came in July 1914 France's unhesitating response was due, not merely to her loyalty to the alliance which she had sought so eagerly, but to her hope that the sword of the Entente would restore the children whom she had lost in 1871, who had never forgotten her, and whom she had never ceased to mourn. The recovery of the Rhine provinces, declares Paleologue, who worked with Delcasse at the Quai d'Orsay, was his darling dream, the unavowed goal of all his efforts. Millions of Frenchmen felt the same. Peacemakers on both sides of the Rhine had done their best for forty years, but their labours were in vain. The problem of Franco-German reconciliation was insoluble. Some wounds are so deep and painful that they never heal, for man does not live by bread alone.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

This survey is based on the two immense official publications,

Documents Diplomatique Français* and *Die Grosse Politik der Europäischen Kabinette*. In the former the volumes covering the period from September 1891 to the end of 1900, and from January 1906 to November 1911, have not yet appeared.

The French version of the period may be studied in *Histoire Diplomatique de l'Europe, 1871-1914*, ed. Hauser; Hanotaux, *Histoire de la "France Contemporaine"*; Lavissee, *Histoire de France Contemporaine*, vols. 7 and 8 ; Bourgeois et Pages, *Les Origines et les Responsabilités de la Grande Guerre*; Pinon, *France et l'Allemagne*; Gontaut-Biron, *Mon Ambassade en Allemagne 1872-3* ; Dreux, *Les dernières Années de L'Ambassade de Gontaut-Biron*; Deschanel, *Gambetta*; Mme Adam, *Souvenirs*; Freycinet, *Souvenirs*; Rambaud,